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## COLDEN'S LIFE OF FULTON.

We had just perused the life of the late Robert Fulton, written by his friend, Cadwallader D. Colden, of New-York, and was about to make a short notice of it, when the following review by the Editor of the New-York Monthly Magazine was received, which we publish in preference to what we might say ourselves. Though the article is of considerable length, yet we believe it will be read with interest, and particularly by those who may not have an opportunity to peruse the original.—Mr. Fulton's name has so long been identified with Steam Boat navigation, improvements in which are so fast progressing, that whatever may tend to establish or disprove his claims to *originality of invention* or improvements in it, will be sought after with care. It does not appear he even made an original application of the principle. His great merit lies in being an ingenious and persevering improver of principles suggested by others, but left almost in a state of embryo; and this is no small merit. Few, very few inventors have so far perfected and applied their principle, as not to leave much to be done by others; and if the inventor is entitled to honor and distinction, surely to him who reduces theory to practice, not less is due. And on this ground, we think Mr. Fulton is entitled to no small share of public gratitude; but we cannot believe him faultless, as represented by his friend. Mr. Colden must be aware that a landscape picture is imperfect, except light and shade be so blended as to represent nature; but it is not less so than that biography which attempts to delineate human life without a fault or frailty. If an artist was to attempt to sketch the figure of Mr. Colden, and represent him a perfect Apollo, he would not be guilty of a greater deviation from reality, than Mr. C. himself has been.

But if Mr. Colden has erred in judgment, we think the Literary and Philosophical Society, to whom he bequeathed the profits resulting from the sale of his book, have not been less unfortunate in the application of his liberality. We learn by extracts from their minutes, that they have passed a resolve to apply the profits to the erection of a pedestrian statue to their late associate.

If the erecting of monuments in ancient times were expedient, because books were scarce and dear, they can be no longer so now. A man's works are his best monuments, and faithfully written books are the best records of his fame.—It is no argument to say that monuments and sta-

tues are inducements to others to be useful. He who labors only to obtain a column of marble seldom renders himself worthy of one; but he who depends upon the utility of his own works as a monument of his fame, will be studious to render them durable by being useful. We think if the Literary and Philosophical Society had determined to appropriate the profits of Mr. Colden's Memoir to the education of some poor youth of genius, to be selected from some of the charity schools of that state, or to the erection of a proper building for the instruction of poor children, or some public work, it would have been more honorably, because more usefully, applied.

The life of Robert Fulton, by his friend Cadwallader D. Colden. Read before the Literary and Philosophical Society of New-York; comprising some account of the invention, progress and establishment of steam-boats; of improvements in the construction and navigation of canals, and other objects of public utility: with an appendix.

The present is the age of book-making, and especially of biography. The lives of individuals, and frequently of individuals whose eminence is known only to their biographers and a few of their intimate friends—occupy as much space on the shelves of a library, if not in public attention, as is allotted to the history of nations. An eminent statesman fills at least three thick volumes: the doings and sayings of a celebrated divine, or a respectable poet are with difficulty compressed into two; and the *memorabilia* of some pious lady, whose manifold virtues have rendered her name known to half the town, and her person to half a street, cannot be duly set forth to her bereaved friends and a grateful public in less than a full-sized octavo. The great objection to this inordinate claim upon public attention is, that it is impossible to comply with it. We have some concerns relating to our own lives to which we must attend, and really cannot read so many books.—We are ready to acknowledge that the present is not an occasion which peculiarly demands remarks of this nature. If it were, we should extend and apply them with much relish if not with some pungency. Mr. Fulton was, in truth, a distinguished man, and a public benefactor. It was fitting that a memoir of his life should be preserved; and if his merits have been somewhat overrated, much apology may be found in the patriotism which seeks to raise the honor of the country through the merit of an eminent citizen, and still more in the ardor of private affection, striving to exalt the reputation of a departed friend. This, however, is apology and not justification. Indeed, we think that the biography of an individual should never be written by a warm admirer, and still less by a personal friend, and one who has himself been associated in the designs and labors, the history of which it is his business to relate. We may be told that the desire of personal reputation is no unworthy motive, and that a regard for the reputation of our friends is one of the most amiable traits of the human character—no matter—

the truth, the simple unadorned truth, is what we want; and this can best be obtained by deriving our information from those only whose testimony is liable neither to be perverted by interest nor swayed by affection. If this rule were followed, biographers would be less frequent, and we should lose something of the zeal and interest with which they are written. But the cause of truth would be a gainer; and there is little danger, in the present state of literature, that sufficient inducements of fame and profit will not be held out to record the history and the virtues of those eminently great and good men who have been the benefactors or ornaments of their age.

We would sedulously guard against the impression that we mean to represent the life of Mr. Fulton, by his friend Mr. Colden, as intentionally coloured. We merely imagine that in relating the efforts and delineating the character of a personal and intimate friend, with whom the relater was, in some degree at least, united in his hopes and his fears, his failures and his success, he has not been able to resist the influence which such circumstances so forcibly exert.

In the very commencement of the work, Mr. Colden thus fixes the point of elevation on which he thinks the character of Mr. Fulton is entitled to stand.

We cannot think that it will be imputed to an undue partiality for our regretted associate, if we say that there cannot be found on the records of departed worth, the name of a person to whose individual exertions mankind are more indebted than they are to the late Robert Fulton. The combined efforts of philosophers and statesmen have improved the condition of man; but no individual has conferred more important benefits on his species than he whose memory now engages our attention.

When we have taken a view of what he has done, and bestowed some consideration on its effects, it will not appear that this praise is exaggerated, and we shall be obliged to acknowledge that though others may have been conducted in the paths of science by superior learning, and may have had a more dazzling career, the labors of no individual have been more honorable, meritorious, or practically useful.

We have sufficiently intimated an opinion that it would have been well to have assumed a tone somewhat lower—because it might have been better sustained; but there is a part of this praise in which we are disposed very heartily to join.—Mr. Fulton certainly was, and to a very eminent degree, “*practically useful*.” With an adequate knowledge of the philosophical principles relating to the subjects of his investigation, with what is called an ingenious mechanical turn of mind, and favored by circumstances with ample leisure and other means to retrieve unavoidable failures and continue his experiments, he has turned them to good account, and left the world his debtor.—His great merit, in our opinion, consisted not in invention, but improvement. Upon this part of the subject it certainly behoves us to speak with modesty, for we frankly confess that our ignorance of mechanics is such as to prevent our being competent judges in the matter. It would appear, however, that Mr. Colden himself thinks proper rather to insinuate than to assert his claim to originality, and we believe the fact to be, that neither Mr. Fulton nor his counsel ever chose to rest his right to the exclusive navigation of waters by steam

upon the patent obtained by him from the United States, but altogether upon the several statutes of the state of New-York; and we presume the reason was because a patentee under the United States must at all times be able to prove that he was the original inventor of the improvement in question, whereas, by the statutes of the state of New-York the exclusive privilege was absolutely granted without any such condition.

Robert Fulton, the subject of the memoir, was born of Irish parents, in Little Britain, in the county of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1765. His family is said to have been respectable, but not rich. Mr. Colden says that his peculiar genius manifested itself at an early age, and that his leisure hours in childhood were spent in mechanics' shops, or devoted to the pencil. This latter employment seems at that time to have possessed the greatest attractions, for from the age of seventeen to twenty-one, he painted portraits and landscapes, at Philadelphia, for profit. He then purchased, with his earnings, a little farm in Pennsylvania, upon which he established his mother. We rejoice to record this circumstance, as we can scarcely conceive one more honorable to the character of a young man. It proves early industry, frugality, and great strength of filial affection. In the same year he went to England to improve himself in his profession, as a painter, under the patronage of Mr. West. He was for some years an inmate in the family of that gentleman. After leaving it, he removed to Devonshire, and remained in that place, and in other parts of England, for some years longer—it does not clearly appear how many—and then went to France.—During the latter part of his stay in England he seems to have relinquished his profession, and to have busied himself about several projects relating chiefly to canal navigation. In 1793, he addressed (we presume from France) some general speculations on French politics, to lord Stanhope, who appears to have been his intimate friend; but though designed for the public they attracted little of the public attention, as his biographer does not even know whether they were ever, in fact, published or not. In 1797, he took lodgings at an hotel in Paris, with Mr. Joel Barlow, with whom he formed so strong a friendship, that when Mr. B. soon after removed to his own hotel, he invited Mr. F. to reside with him, and for some years Mr. Fulton was a member of the family of Mr. Barlow. He projected a panorama, which proved successful and beneficial, and made some experiments upon the explosion of gunpowder under water. The French directory gave him hopes of patronizing these attempts, but at length withdrew their support. He offered the project to the Dutch government, but it was declined. It was then offered to Bonaparte, who had become first consul, and he appointed a commission with funds and powers to give the required assistance. While in France, and probably about this period, he formed an intimate acquaintance with Chancellor Livingston, and at that period those gentlemen labored conjointly in their attempts to introduce steam navigation, which was afterwards attended with such brilliant success. In 1801, he made several experiments with a plunging boat, designed for a sub-marine warfare, with a degree of success which seems to have been satisfactory to himself. The following very flattering account was given by St. Austin, a member of the tribunal.

The diving boat, in the construction of which he is now employed, will be capacious enough to contain eight men, and provision enough for twenty days, and will be of sufficient strength and power to enable him to plunge one hundred feet under water, if necessary. He has contrived a reservoir of air, which will enable eight men to remain under water eight hours. When the boat is above water, it has two sails, and looks just like a common boat; when she is to dive, the mast and sails are struck.

In making his experiments, Mr. Fulton not only remained a whole hour under water with three of his companions, but had the boat parallel to the horizon at any given distance. He proved that the compass points as correctly under water as on the surface, and that while under water, the boat made way at the rate of half a league an hour, by means contrived for that purpose.

If we may judge of the future from the past, it would seem necessary for the success of these projects, to obtain the consent of those who are to be "decomposed," which has not yet been done. Mr. Fulton was therefore never able to demolish an English ship, although he watched long and anxiously such as approached the French coast, for that purpose. The rulers of France being at length discouraged, and Mr. Fulton thinking that the all-important object was to blow up ships, and so that was effected, it was no great matter to what power they might happen to belong, turned his eyes for patronage to the English government—or they turned their eyes to him. Mr. Colden seems very properly aware that this conduct of his friend might make an unpleasant impression on the minds of those who were not, like his biographer, acquainted with the elevation and philanthropy of his views, and seeks to justify him by the following defence:

It must be recollected, that Mr. Fulton's enthusiastic notions of the advantages of an universal free trade and liberty of the seas, had led to the inventions which he was then endeavoring to employ, and which, as he supposed, would annihilate naval armaments, the great support in his estimation of what he called the war system of Europe. He was persuaded, that if this system could be broken up, all nations would direct their energies to education, the sciences, and a free exchange of their natural advantages. He was convinced, that if, on the contrary, the Europeans continued to cherish this war system, and to support and augment their great naval armaments, his own country would be driven to the necessity of protecting herself by similar establishments, which, as he thought, would be inimical to her republican institutions, and destructive of her happiness. Without reference, therefore, to the merits of the then existing contest, the grounds of which were constantly changing; without feeling a partiality or enmity to either of the belligerents, he was desirous of engaging one of the nations at war, to give him an opportunity of trying the efficacy of his inventions. If they were proved to answer his expectations, he was indifferent as to the temporary advantages it might give either over the other. He believed that the result would be the permanent happiness of all, and that in the general good, his own country would largely participate. He considered himself as introducing a new military science, which he wished to prove, and in which he had a desire to perfect himself, for the benefit of his country and of

mankind. His sentiments on this subject were not novel, nor without the sanction of the nations which they most immediately concerned. Neither France nor England has hesitated to encourage their citizens, with a view to their improvement in military science, to serve in the armies and navies of foreign states at war, when they have been neutral.

"Whatever" says Mr. C. "may be the just force of this reasoning, it swayed the mind of Mr. Fulton to honest conviction." It is doubtful whether it will produce a similar effect on any other mind.

From the following passage we infer, that the negotiations between Mr. Fulton and the English ministry were clandestine, and were carried on at a time when he resided in France, and was ostensibly attached to her interests:

It has been mentioned, that the Earl of Stanhope had taken great pains to inform himself as to Mr. Fulton's proceedings in France. This nobleman's mathematical and mechanical mind, perceived what consequence might result from the application of Mr. Fulton's inventions. The information he obtained was communicated to the British cabinet, and excited alarm. It was determined by the British ministry, if possible, to withdraw Mr. Fulton from France. Lord Sidmouth, who was then one of the ministers, contrived to have a communication with Mr. Fulton, while he was in Paris, and obtained his consent to meet an agent of the British government in Holland. In October, 1803, Mr. Fulton went from Paris to Amsterdam for this purpose. But the agent with whom he was to confer did not arrive; and after being in Amsterdam three months, he returned to Paris.

We cannot resist the impression that some light is thrown upon Mr. Fulton's conduct by the evidence adduced for another purpose, by Mr. Colden, from Lord Stanhope, his early friend and correspondent.

In a speech on American affairs, made by Lord Stanhope in the house of lords, soon after these experiments were made, he is reported in an English newspaper, to have said "it was not, perhaps, sufficiently known that, at that very moment, exertions were making in America to carry into effect a plan, for the disclosure of which an individual had, a few years before, demanded of the British government fifteen thousand dollars, but had been refused. He alluded to a plan, he said, for the invisible destruction of shipping, and particularly of men of war. That the inventor of this scheme was then in America, and it was ascertained that it would not, on an average, cost twenty pounds to destroy any ship whatever."

While he was laboring for his new employers some of his torpedoes were thrown from British boats upon French vessels, but they exploded without effect—a circumstance which Mr. Fulton attributed to a slight, and easily rectified mistake. To evince the correctness of his opinion, in October, 1805, he did blow up with complete success a brig *provided for the purpose*. Still, however, the British ministry were incredulous, and "Mr. Fulton, wearied with incessant applications, disappointments, and neglect, at length embarked for this country."

Mr. Colden here fairly states—

It would be doing injustice to the memory of Mr. Fulton, as well as that of another ingenious native American, not to notice, before we leave



this subject, that Mr. Fulton did not pretend to have been the first who discovered that gunpowder might be exploded with effect under water; nor did he pretend to have been the first who attempted to apply it as the means of hostility.—He knew well what had been done by Bushnell in our revolutionary war. He frequently spoke of the genius of this American with great respect and expressed a conviction that his attempts against the enemy would have been more successful if he had had the advantages which he himself derived from the improvements of nearly forty years in mechanics and mechanical philosophy.

We cannot but think, that it is a very exaggerated estimate of the efficiency of Mr. Fulton's contrivances which induces Mr. Colden to suppose, that "the British ministry never truly intended to give Mr. Fulton a fair opportunity of trying the effects of his engines."

The object may have been to prevent their being placed in the hands of an enemy; and if that was accomplished, it was the interest of England, as long as she was ambitious of maintaining the proud title of mistress of the seas, to make the world believe, that Mr. Fulton's projects were chimerical. Nothing could be more likely to produce this effect, than abortive attempts to apply them. This would prevent other nations from making similar experiments, and discourage the inventor.

In June the British ministry appointed a commission to examine Mr. Fulton's projects. The commissioners were sir Joseph Banks, Mr. Cavendish, sir Home Popham, major Congreve, and Mr. John Rennie. Many weeks passed before Mr. Fulton could prevail on them to do any thing, and finally, when they met, they reported against the sub-marine boat as being impracticable. In a letter to the ministry, Mr. Fulton complains that this report was made without his having been called upon for any explanations, and although the gentlemen who made it had before them no account of what had been done. Indeed, in the first interview which Mr. Fulton had with Mr. Pitt and lord Melville, the latter condemned the *Nautilus* without a moment's consideration.

If these engines were, in truth, as terrible as the biographer imagines, it would not be strange that the British ministry should choose to preserve the navy by almost any means, from entire demolition; and they might oppose the introduction of a mode of warfare, which, though in the first instance it was exerted against their enemies, would infallibly re-act against themselves with greater effect in proportion to the superiority of their naval force. But no such motives can be ascribed to the French republican government, and they rejected it—no such suspicion can lie against Bonaparte, and after a full trial he relinquished it—or against the Dutch government, and they declined it—no such policy is to be attributed to our administration, and still we are told by Mr. Colden, (page 207), "Mr. Fulton's plan for sub-marine warfare met with no countenance from the government. He had not been able to inspire the executive officers with any confidence in them." We presume, also, that commodore Rodgers is not to be accused of connivance in a similar design.

Besides, Mr. Colden should have weighed the matter well before he made a charge which necessarily implies that all the experiments made by such men as Mr. Cavendish, sir Home Popham,

major Congreve and Mr. Rennie, (the commissioners appointed by the British ministry) were intended to be deceptive, and that their report was meanly fraudulent and false.

Mr. Colden has so far suffered his imagination to predominate over his better judgment upon this subject, that he seems really to have supposed [see page 206] that during the late war it was a main object with the British navy to ascertain the part of the coast where Mr. Fulton might reside, and to avoid it as the peculiarly fulminating point of this terrific submerged thunder.

Mr. Fulton arrived in New-York in December, 1806, and immediately renewed the pursuit of the objects upon which he had recently been engaged in Europe, that is, sub-marine war and steam navigation. He was encouraged by the American government, and in the summer of 1807, made several experiments, and one of them upon a large hulk brig, (an unresisting subject,) was completely successful. The narrowness of our limits—the necessary length of this article—and the notoriety of these attempts, which were made in the vicinity of this city, render it unnecessary for us to detail them with minuteness. In March, 1810, congress passed an act making an appropriation for trying the use of torpedoes and sub-marine explosions. Commissioners were appointed to observe the success of the experiments of which the sloop of war *Argus*, commanded by captain Lawrence, was to be the subject. These commissioners differed considerably in their reports of the result to the government. Chancellor Livingston, with whom, as we before mentioned, Mr. Fulton had formed a very intimate acquaintance and connexion in France, which subsisted during their joint lives, was rather favorably impressed. General Lewis ("whose long military services and experience" Mr. Colden thinks, "render his judgment on this subject, deserving of the highest consideration;") was very sanguine of their ultimate success; and such, also, was the opinion of the biographer, then one of the commissioners.

Commodore Rodgers also made a report, which contained a journal of the daily proceedings of Mr. Fulton and the committee, and very minute descriptions of the machines and experiments.—His opinion was entirely against Mr. Fulton's system, and he concludes, that every part of it would be found totally impracticable.

A great portion of the work is occupied by a statement of Mr. Fulton's merit, and those of his chief friend and associate Chancellor Livingston, in relation to steam navigation. The information prevalent upon the subject—the legal discussions which have already been had, and which may hereafter arise in relation to it—and to speak honestly, a little distrust of our own judgment, induce us to refrain from a minute examination of the claims which are advanced in favor of those gentlemen. It is but fair, however, to remark, that even if it be admitted that Mr. Fulton has done no more than to reduce to successful practice previously existing theories upon a subject of such paramount importance, he is entitled to praise enough to fully satisfy the ambition and affection of his friends. The increased facility of intercourse in many parts of the world, and especially on this continent, is such as twenty years ago it would have required a bold imagination to conceive. Can any man doubt that Mr. Fulton has been mainly instrumental in accelerating, if

he did not exclusively produce this state of things? The whole progress of the arts shows that the first discovery of a principle is usually very remote from the perfection of the practice. This is strongly exemplified by some facts stated by Mr. Fulton himself. In 1320 gunpowder was discovered; 150 years after that period iron balls were first used; muskets were unknown until 200 years from the same time; and in these the cumbrous match lock did not give place to the fire-lock till the beginning of the 17th century, that is, 280 years after the first knowledge of gunpowder.

"In the year sixteen hundred and sixty-three, the marquis of Worcester discovered the expansive power of steam. Thirty-three years afterwards, captain Savary took out a patent for a steam-engine, to pump the mines of Cornwall.—In seventeen hundred and five, Mr. Newcomen thought of a piston to the cylinder; but he worked at it nine years before it was sufficiently improved to give it a fair prospect of utility.—Fifty-two years after Mr. Newcomen's discovery, Mr. Watt thought of another improvement, which was the separate condenser. Thus it was a hundred years from the time of the marquis of Worcester, till Mr. Watt's discovery gave the steam-engine, in any degree, its present perfection; and rendered it so simple, familiar, and useful, as to be adapted to the many important purposes to which it is now applied."

Another striking illustration to the same effect, and which may serve to exemplify the nature as well as to manifest the degree of Mr. Fulton's benefactions to the public, is to be found in the gradual improvements effected in his steam boats since their establishment. We believe that the average passage of the first boat between Albany and this city fell little short of 36 hours, and in some of the present boats it does not exceed 21 hours.

Mr. Fulton's attention was strongly attracted, during several parts of his life, to the subject of improving internal navigation by means of canals, and in particular, he entered with his characteristic enthusiasm, into the magnificent project which our legislature is now attempting to realize. In 1811 he was appointed one of the commissioners upon the subject, but he did not sanction the report which in the subsequent year was returned to the legislature. It is not claimed by the biographer either that this scheme in particular, or generally this branch of improvement, has received any eminent benefit from the genius or industry of Mr. Fulton.

In February, eighteen hundred and fourteen, he addressed a letter to Gouverneur Morris, Esq. president of the board of commissioners, in which he shows what would be the advantages of the proposed canal, and exhibits very interesting and curious calculations of the comparative expense of transportation upon land, upon rivers, and upon canals.

The same year Mr. Fulton, with the other commissioners, made another report to the legislature; this is the last service he rendered this magnificent project.

We presume that our readers will readily excuse our omission of any account of Mr. Fulton's well-known and very extensive experiments in relation to the various modes which he devised for submarine attack, and for transferring a large portion of naval warfare beneath the surface of the ocean. We are told by Mr. Colden that the

steam frigate, that imposing if not effective engine of war, owes its origin to these experiments, although it is not apparently connected with them. The untimely death of Mr. Fulton; the cessation of the war; and the imperfections inseparable from the infancy of all improvements, may have prevented the full development of the powers which, perhaps, this invention is hereafter destined to display.

The occasion and manner of Mr. Fulton's death is thus related:

In January, eighteen hundred and fifteen, Mr. John R. Livingston, who owned the steam boat which plied between New-York and New-Jersey, but which was stopped by the operation of the Jersey laws, petitioned the legislature of that state for their repeal. After hearing witness and counsel for several days, the laws were rescinded. It was upon this occasion that Mr. Fulton was examined as a witness, as we have before stated.—The weather, while he was at Trenton, where he was much exposed in attending the hall of the legislature, was uncommonly cold. When he was crossing the Hudson to return to his house and family, the river was very full of ice, which occasioned his being several hours on the water in a very severe day. Mr. Fulton had not a constitution to encounter such exposure, and upon his return he found himself much indisposed from the effects of it. He had at that time great anxiety about the steam-frigate, and, after confining himself for a few days, when he was convalescent, he went to give his superintendence to the artificers employed about her: he forgot his debilitated state of health in the interest he took in what was doing on the frigate, and was a long time, in a bad day, exposed to the weather on her decks.—He soon found the effects of this imprudence.—His indisposition returned upon him with such violence as to confine him to his bed: His disorder increased, and on the twenty-fourth day of February, eighteen hundred and fifteen, terminated his valuable life.

As soon as the legislature, which was then in session at Albany, heard of the death of Mr. Fulton, they expressed their participation in the general sentiment, by resolving that the members of both houses should wear mourning for some weeks.

It will appear, by the above slight sketch of the life of this valuable citizen, that the three great subjects of his attention and efforts, were the improvement of the art of making canals, submarine warfare, and steam navigation. In relation to the first, we are not aware that he has effected much; in the second, he has displayed great talent and wonderful industry, the effects and utility of which time is hereafter to develop; and in the third he has done what should make his country proud, and the world grateful.

The work which is the subject of our remarks, was read as a memoir before the Literary and Philosophical Society of New-York. It was undoubtedly designed for the press, and we have treated it as such. We understand that the profits of the publication are liberally given to that society by the author.

Mr. Colden evidently does not hold the pen of a ready or practised writer. His style is sometimes deficient in elegance, and often in ease and grace. In a composition so formal, and so generally stately, we do not like such expressions as "the little farm on which he settled his mother," page 9.—

"Canalling," page 19,—and we particularly disrelish the mock solemnity which results from prefixing the indefinite article to the name of an individual—"they mark the genius of a Fulton," page 13. But these are trifles. The work wants arrangement. The writer seems to have been confused between his attention to chronological order, and his desire to keep separate his accounts of the several subjects of Mr. Fulton's investigation. The great objection is, that the book is too long. In such matters compression is every thing. Considering the avocations of the writer, part of the prolixity to which we object, is perhaps to be excused upon the ground suggested by Dean Swift—that he had no time to write shorter—but surely there is a great deal which might have been beneficially retrenched. The merits of Mr. West and his pictures, whatever they may be, might more properly have been left to form a part of the biography of that gentleman, whenever it shall come to be again written.

We have thought proper to notice these imperfections, though of minor importance. Upon the whole, we think the writer has done justice to his subject and honor to himself.

The Appendix contains some information on the subjects to which Mr. Fulton had devoted his attention, though it is more diffuse than important.

It would be unjust to the publishers not to acknowledge that they have presented us, in this work, an elegant specimen of American typography. D.

*From the Boston Daily Advertiser.*

#### SEA SERPENT.

A gentleman who has been in Gloucester has given us the following account of this animal.

It was still seen in the harbor of Gloucester on Sunday afternoon, and Monday afternoon. On Tuesday the weather was rough, and he did not make his appearance. From what has been observed of his habits, it seems that he approaches the shore, and shews himself above the surface, when the water is smooth and the weather warm.

On Sunday and Monday very distinct views were had of him by various persons. Gentlemen who have been at Gloucester, and attended to the accounts of those who have seen him at different times, and in different situations, think that there can be no doubt but the animal is serpent in kind; that he is at least eighty, and more probable an hundred feet long, and nearly of the size of a flour barrel, at the largest place. As to the bunches, or protuberances, which have been mentioned, these are thought to be nothing more than the appearances occasioned by his manner of motion. He does not wind literally along, as serpents commonly do, but his motion is undulatory, or consisting in alternate rising and depression, somewhat like the motion of a caterpillar. Mr. Johnson, a young man, who went into a boat to visit a vessel in the harbor on Sunday, in the dusk of the evening, came very near to him, before he discovered him, so that he might have reached him with the oar. He was quite still, and appeared to be reposing. He was round and smooth, and has nothing like bunches. His head, though in its front it is circular, is not flat like a common

serpent's, but the top is elevated; prominent and round; and owing to this latter circumstance a side view of his head a little resembles that of a dog's. Capt. Beach, who appears to have examined him very often, and sometimes in favorable situations, says his head is the size of a common bucket. He has seen him with his mouth open, his under jaw and teeth like a shark's, his head round, with apparently very thick scales, and its whole appearance very terrific. Creditable persons aver, that they have seen him swimming into the harbor, with great speed, holding his head eight feet above the water. More often he moves along, with his head under water, shewing the line of his back, or with his head immediately above the surface. He appears to be round, with large scales, which, when he contracts his folds, gives a rigid appearance to his back, but when he extends himself the scales enclose, and do not prevent his appearing smooth. His general colour is dark brown; his head dark brown intermixed with white. He often turns very quick, bringing his head near his tale, and putting himself in the form of a staple. Capt. John Beach, jr. has completed a drawing of him, which is to be engraved. As he has seen him several times, it is probable his likeness will be tolerably just. The people of Gloucester, however, intend to be able to give a better account of him, if he should stay longer in their harbor. Shark hooks, variously baited and attached to buoys, have been set afloat in the harbors, and several boats, well manned and armed, were destined to attack him yesterday, if he shewed himself.

The volume of Memoirs of the Wernerian Natural History Society, for 1808—9—10, contains a paper by Dr. Barclay upon the animal that was cast ashore on the Island of Stronsa, one of the Orkney Islands, in September 1808. The following is one of the affidavits accompanying the paper; and it will give a tolerable idea of the animal. Dr. Barclay seems to be of opinion that this was a new animal, of different genus or species from any heretofore described in the annals of Natural History. From the accounts which we received from gentlemen who returned from Gloucester yesterday, the substance of which is previously given, we are satisfied that the animal there bears no resemblance to that which was cast on shore at Stronsa. The former is of the serpent, the latter of the fish kind.

We learn that there is now living at Deer Isle, in Penobscot Bay, several people who have repeatedly mentioned having seen near that Island, in the year 1783, a monster, which is described as similar to that which has now visited Cape Ann Harbor.

#### AFFIDAVIT.

*At Kirkwall, Nov. 19, 1808.*

In presence of Dr. Robert Groat, Physician at Kirkwall, and Malcolm Laing, Esq. M. P. Two of his majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Orkney,

Appeared Mr. George Sherar, tacksman of Rothieshelm, in the Island of Stronsa: who being interrogated, solemnly declared that on the 20th of October, being in Rothieshelm-head, he saw the crew of John Pease's boat examining something on the water, which he took to be a dead whale: That about ten days afterwards, a gale of east wind having taken place, he went to see if the whale was driven ashore, and found it in a creek lying on its back, about a foot under wa-

\* "In the blue depth of the waters,  
Where the wave hath no strife,  
Where the wind is a stranger,  
And the sea-snake hath life."



ter, and from the view he had of its figure, length, and limbs, his curiosity induced him to return a day or two after the gale had abated, when he found it thrown upon the beach a little below high water mark, and lying on its belly, as represented in the drawing: That he returned next morning with a foot rule, purposely to measure it, and found it exactly fifty-five feet in length from the hole in the top of the skull (which he has brought to town with him) to the extremity of the tail.

That the length of the neck was exactly fifteen feet from the same hole to the beginning of the mane. That he measured also the circumference of the animal as accurately as he could, which was about ten feet more or less; and the whole body, where the limbs were attached to it, was about the same circumference. That the lower jaw or mouth was wanting; but there were some substances or bones of the jaw remaining, when he first examined it, which are now away. That it had two holes on each side of the neck, besides the one on the back of the skull. That the mane and bristles were about fourteen inches in length each, of a silvery colour, and particularly luminous in the dark before they were dried. That the upper part of the limbs, which answers to the shoulder blade, was joined to the body like the shoulder blade of a cow, forming a part of the side.—That a part of the tail was wanting, being incidentally broken off at the extremity, where the last joint of which was bare, was an inch and a half in breadth. That the bones were of a gristly nature, like those of a halibut, the back bone excepted, which was the only solid bone in the body. That the tail was quite flexible, turning to every direction, as he lifted it; and he supposes the neck to be equally so from its appearance at the time.

That he has brought in to deliver to Mr. Laing the skull, two joints of one of the largest limbs next the head, with different parts of the back-bone, besides the bones that were formerly sent in: That there were either five or six toes upon each paw, about nine inches long, and of a soft substance: That the toes were separate from each other, and not webbed, as far as he could observe, and that the paw was about half a foot each way, in length and breadth: That a few days thereafter, a gale of wind came on, and drove it to another part of the shore, where it was broken to pieces by the surge, and when Mr. Petrie came out to take a drawing of it, no part of the body remained entire: That he endeavored to convey an idea of the animal to Mr. Petrie, by drawing the figure of it as accurately as he could with chalk, on the table, exactly as it lay upon the shore, after which Mr. Petrie made six or seven different sketches or plans of the fish, before he could bring it to correspond, in each minute particular, with the strong idea which he retains of its appearance: That he was the more attentive to its shape, dimensions and figure, in order to be able to give an accurate account of it to any travellers that might come to Rotherhithe; and that he is ready to make oath, that the drawing is an exact resemblance of the fish as it appeared when he measured it; and corresponds in all particulars with the idea which he entertains of the figure, dimensions and proportions of the fish: That the substance of the body, appeared like coarse ill-coloured beef, interlarded with fat or tallow, without the least resemblance or affinity to fish; but when

put into a lamp, and the lamp placed on the fire, it neither flamed nor melted, but burned away like a gristly substance: That he perceived no teeth in the upper jaw; the lower jaw and tongue being wanting, and the palate also away: That the aperture of the throat appeared to be so wide, that he might have put his foot down through it: That the joints of the limbs were not united by a ball and socket, but were lapped over each other and united by some means which he does not comprehend: That there were two canals, one above and the other below the back-bone, large enough to admit ones finger, and extending from the vertebrae of the neck, to the extremity of the tail, containing two ligaments, which he supposed enabled the animal to raise itself up, or to bend its body in a spiral form: That a tract of strong easterly wind had prevailed, before the body was discovered upon the shore; and that he saw the body on two or three different occasions, after he had measured it, and before it went to pieces.

And all this he declares to be truth, &c.

(Signed)

GEO. SHERAR.

*Last news from the Serpent.*—The Salem Gazette, of the 23d inst. says, "the Serpent has quitted Gloucester, and yesterday was discovered in Kettle Cove (Manchester) amidst schools of bait fish; none of these have been seen in Gloucester harbor since his disappearance."

Kettle Cove is about four miles on this side Cape Ann, (Gloucester.) It appears from various accounts, that the favorite food of this new visitor is bait fish, (herring, squid and pohaden.) Is it not probable, then, that he has been attracted to our coast at this time by the unusual schools of these fish which have been known to abound on the whole coast of Massachusetts this summer? We have been informed by gentlemen from Cape Cod, that immense quantities of squid have appeared on that coast, and been thrown ashore on the land; and we have accounts from other quarters of the appearance of herrings, &c. in large numbers. Having exhausted Cape Ann Harbor, this voracious fish-eater will probably search for his meals in the harbors and inlets in which this food abounds, and visit of course the south shore. We publish this suggestion, that those who have the means, and the inclination, to adventure for him, may be in readiness; and can assure a handsome fortune to those who may be so fortunate as to capture him, for exhibition.

*Postscript.*—The Serpent was seen yesterday morning off Kettle-Island, between Manchester and Cape Ann; he was following and feasting on a large school of alewives. The arrangements made in Cape Ann to take him, were ready for operation yesterday morning; and if skill, courage and strong apparatus can effect the desired object, their success is certain. We conversed yesterday with Capt. Beach, jun. who has seen this animal from twelve to twenty times, and has taken an accurate drawing of him for exhibition. He describes him as being, in his most contracted state, about 70 feet in length, and of the size of a flour barrel. A number of our enterprising citizens have been at Cape Ann some days, to encourage and assist in the destruction of the monster. A committee of the Linnean Society, we learn, will repair to Cape Ann this day, to collect information so interesting to natural history.

We are told that two Sharks appeared to be constantly in attendance upon the great Sea-Ser-

pent, at Gloucester; whether as his humble servants, or as a reconnoitering party, to see what sort of a gentleman he is, or to find some vulnerable part and watch some favorable opportunity to attack and destroy him is not known.—*Sal. Gaz.*

### TOUR OF THE PRESIDENT.

#### ADDRESS

*To the President of the United States, at Windsor, Vermont.*

Sir—It is with equal pleasure and pride that the citizens of Windsor, so remote from the seat of the general government, embrace this opportunity of tendering to you in person, the homage of their profound respect; a homage not the less becoming the occasion since it is the best tribute which freemen can offer, and which the President of the U. States, alone, of all the world, from a free people can receive.

The state of Vermont, sir, after having alone, and successively borne a signal share in the heat and burden of our revolutionary labors, was the first to appreciate the importance of our *federal compact*, and to solicit admission into the national Union. Under that compact, sir, in the sanctuary of that union, we are free—we are protected—we are flourishing and happy. Our mountains echo with the cheerful voice of industry and security; our valleys smile with abundance and peace.—These blessings are dear to our hearts. We habitually cherish them, as inseparable from our existence. In their defence, sir, *we have bled*;—and we are still ready, should our country call, to **BLEED AGAIN.**

In this tour, undertaken through a remote section of the Union, for the additional security of our growing Republic, you have an opportunity to become more intimately acquainted with our local feelings,—our local interests,—our republican spirit;—and above all, our unshaken attachment to our national government, and our national institutions.

We feel ourselves flattered by this *first* visit from the Chief Magistrate of our nation; and, in beholding your face, sir, we behold a new pledge for the continuance of our invaluable blessings.

Placed, sir, as you have fortunately been, in the Executive Chair, by the almost unanimous voice of your country, at an auspicious moment, when peace is again restored; when the loud din of party collision is dying away, and when a general tranquillity seems pervading the world, we offer you our felicitations on the pleasing event.—And while we rejoice in your opportunity, we rely on your wisdom, to co-operate with our enlightened patriots and legislators in strengthening our republican institutions, and, under the guidance of Heaven, to fix, on a durable basis, the happy destinies of a great and rising empire.—From our unqualified respect to your personal character, as well as from the pledge to be found in a long life devoted to the public good, we have a right to anticipate the most pleasing results.—In copying the illustrious examples of the great founders of our Republic, you cannot fail to advance the best interests and the true glory of our common country, and thus to erect in the hearts of your countrymen, an imperishable monument to your own fame. With such feelings and with such views, in the name and in behalf of the citi-

zens of Windsor, we bid you a cordial welcome to this village and to the state of Vermont.

T. Leverett,  
J. Dunham,  
H. Everett,  
A. Aikens,  
E. Torrey.

Com't of  
Arrange-  
ments.

#### PRESIDENT'S ANSWER.

Fellow Citizens,

I have approached the State of Vermont with peculiar sensibility. On a former visit, immediately after the war, I left it a wilderness;—and I now find it blooming with luxuriant promise of wealth and happiness to a numerous population. A brave and free people will never abandon the defence of their country. The patriotism of Vermont, has been relied on in times of peril; and the just expectation of their virtue was honorably sustained. I shall ever rely on their wisdom in the councils of the nation, as on their courage in the field.

The confidence now universally felt in the stability and efficiency of our government, is the surest pledge, that all judicious measures, adopted for the common good of the nation, will receive the cordial support of all honest and honorable men.

I rejoice with you, that a just sense of the national interests and more generous feelings pervade the country. It is by cherishing these, with a liberal reference to the prosperity and happiness of the whole union, that the high destiny of our nation can be attained.

The true principles of our policy are now well understood. The people have only to maintain them with vigor and economy, and all the great objects of national concern, under a benign Providence, will be secured to ourselves and our posterity.

JAMES MONROE.

#### ADDRESS,

By the citizens of Burlington,

*To the President of the United States.*

Sir—In behalf of the inhabitants of the town of Burlington, and its vicinity, we congratulate you on your safe arrival, within this part of the State of Vermont.

Living under a government of our own choice, where birth and hereditary titles create no factitious privileges, where the avenues of office are opened to exalted merit, and where virtue and worth confer the only distinctions known to our law, the citizen is under a moral obligation to respect the authorities of his country.

Permit us, sir, to avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded by this interview to assure you of a cordial reception, and while we testify the high sense we entertain of your private worth, to discharge the pleasing task of tendering to the Chief Magistrate of our country the respect due to his exalted station.

The pleasure of a personal acquaintance is much increased by a knowledge of the objects of your visit. In common with yourself and every virtuous citizen, we indulge an honest pride in contemplating the civil institutions of our country and rejoice in every measure which has for its object the protection and security of the people. In proportion to the value we attach to the blessings of rational liberty, should be our exertions to render the enjoyment of them secure.—Placed upon the frontiers of the U. States in situations assailable by the sudden irruptions of an invading foe, the dangers to which we may be ex-



posed give additional value to any precautionary measures of defence.

We rejoice that the noise of war is lost in the busy arts of peace, that the citizen is left to the honest pursuit of industry and enterprise, under a confidence that his interest is identified with that of the public. But you will not believe us alarmed by idle fears, when we assure you that the recent events on this frontier have shown us, that whatever we hold dear may be jeopardized by the chance of war. The citizens of Vermont will not soon forget the memorable eleventh of September, eighteen hundred and fourteen, or fail to appreciate the worth of those who so valiantly defended their country's flag, and secured to themselves immortal glory. The anxious solicitude of this awful but glorious day, has forcibly impressed upon our minds the truth of the position that *peace is the time to prepare for war.*

We are pleased to know that this subject has already engaged your attention. From a personal inspection of the various parts of our extended republic, you will be enabled, the better to ascertain its vulnerable points and advise to measures of future security. Nor is this subject an uninteresting one. The patriot whose liberal soul is animated by the prospect of ameliorating the condition of his fellow men, here finds an object commensurate to his desires, and while he generously devotes himself to the welfare of his country, he is sustained by a consciousness that his exertions have promoted its glory. Nature also seems to have designated our beloved country as the scene of no ordinary exertions. She has here scattered her gifts with a munificent hand and points the way to high and ennobling pursuits. The vast extent of our territory, the grandeur of its scenery, its mountains, its rivers, and its inland seas, the abundance of its means, together with the progress of population and improvement, combine to render it an object of sublime contemplation.

The alacrity and zeal with which you have engaged in the military and naval defences of our country, is an additional pledge of your honorable motives and patriotic wishes.

That your labour may be crowned with abundant success, and that you may long live to reap the rich reward of a life well spent in the service of your country, is our most earnest wish.

DANIEL FARRAND,

For Committee of Arrangements.

*Burlington, July 24, 1817.*

#### THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY,

*To the Citizens of Burlington.*

Fellow Citizens,

In entering the town of Burlington, I find myself in view of a scene, associated in every bosom with the dearest interest and highest honor of the country. The eventful action on your lake and its invaded shores can never be contemplated without the deepest emotion. It bound the union by stronger ties, if possible, than ever. It filled every breast with confidence in our arms, and aroused the spirit of the country. The proximity of these scenes shall animate our children to emulate the honorable example of their fathers.—They too shall realize that in the hour of peril, their country shall never want defenders, resolute and brave as their ancestors, and firm as the mountains, that gave them birth.

Truly no nation has richer treasures of civil or religious liberty to defend. None stronger ties

to united and to enlightened and to extended patriotism. That a just sense of these truths pervades the community is evinced in the respect, which you tender to the office of the Chief Magistrate of the Country in my person.

The important objects of my tour become the more interesting, as I find the frontier more exposed. You may feel assured that the government will not withhold any practicable measures, for the security of your town; nor have I ever doubted that preparation for defence in time of peace, would ever prove the best economy in war.

If in pursuing these important objects and administering the government upon principles consonant with the benign spirit of our constitution my sincere and honest efforts should be crowned, as you wish, with abundant success; it will be a real gratification to myself, that you and your state will eminently participate in the beneficent, providential result.

JAMES MONROE.

#### ADDRESS

*To the President of the United States, by the Citizens of Ogdensburg, N. Y. on the 31st July.*

Sir,

The trustees and inhabitants of this village welcome with peculiar satisfaction your arrival in health among them, after your long and fatiguing journey through many of our yet infant settlements. In common with the nation we have viewed with much interest your important tour along our sea board and frontier, particularly confiding in your observation, wisdom and experience for the establishment of such points of national defence, along our immediate border, as will best promote our individual prosperity and strengthen the national security. Born and educated under a government whose laws we venerate, enjoying a soil rich in the bounties of Providence, and grateful for the invaluable blessings of liberty bequeathed to us by the heroes of the revolution, no excitement will be wanting on our part to maintain, defend and transmit to posterity the benefits we so eminently possess. Experience, however, has taught us that individual or sectional exertions, be they ever so ardent, unless aided by the strong and protecting arm of government, afford but feeble defence against a powerful foe. Placed on a frontier contiguous to a warlike and powerful nation, enjoying the advantages of an extensive and increasing navigation, it is peculiarly important that our local situation should be well understood. At the commencement of the late war, the attention of government was in the first instance, naturally drawn to the defence of that extensive line of sea coast, on which the immense maritime force of the enemy could be most effectually exerted, and consequently the more remote and interior defences did not, perhaps, receive the same protection which the importance warranted. But commencing your administration in a time of profound peace, enjoying the confidence of the nation, and presiding over a government, proud of its honor, tenacious of its rights, and possessing the requisite resources, we flatter ourselves should any collisions hereafter take place (which we pray heaven to avert) your penetration and judgment, aided by your local observation, will have pointed out and perfected such a line of defences as will ensure our personal safety and redound to the prosperity and honor of the nation.

That you may establish these desirable objects—progress in your important tour with safety, and

return happily to the bosom of your domestic circle, is, sir, the fervent prayer of your obedient servants.

To which his Excellency replied extempore, in substance as follows:—

He thanked the citizens for their attention and very polite reception—that he received it as marks of respect to the first magistrate of the nation, by no means arrogating it to himself as an individual—that it gave him great pleasure, as it evinced an attachment of the people to that form of government which they themselves had established—that he was satisfied they had a just estimate of its value, and were sincerely devoted to its preservation—that in administering it he would support its principles, and as far as in him lay, promote the best interests of the country—That as the address correctly stated, his journey was connected with objects of national defence, and to acquire such information as would the better enable him to discharge the duties of his office—That the government had appropriated large sums of money, the judicious application of which depended much on the executive—He perfectly agreed that a time of peace was the best time to prepare for defence; but had much pleasure in stating that the best understanding prevailed between our government and that of Great Britain, and was persuaded we had every reason to look for a permanent peace—that the importance of our situation along the St. Lawrence had not escaped his observation, and he was much gratified in his progress through—that he found it a fertile country, abounding in every resource, and inhabited by an enterprising, industrious and he believed virtuous people.

#### FINE ARTS.

The Boston Intelligencer says, on looking over the third number of the New-York Monthly Magazine, we observed, under the article of the *Fine Arts*, an erroneous statement relating to an important picture, the inaccuracy of which we presume arose rather from negligence in the writer, than from a want of information on the subject to which it relates. A catalogue of the paintings in the "American Academy," and observations upon the several pictures, form the article in the Magazine upon the Fine Arts.—The following statement appeared erroneous to us:

*"A full length portrait, size of life, of George Washington, by G. Stuart.—We are always delighted by the magic of Stuart's pencil. This is either the copy or the original of the picture painted for lord Lansdown from which the engraving was made by Heath. We have seen a full length portrait of Washington by Stuart, giving another view of the face, and another attitude, beyond all comparison preferable to this. It is in the possession of Peter Jay Monroe, esquire. We lament that the engraving had not been made from Mr. Monroe's rather than lord Lansdown's picture. It is not only a better picture, but it is much more like the person and face of Washington. In No 52, (the painting first mentioned,) a disagreeable protuberance of the under lip may be observed, and a deficiency of chin very unfavorable to the physiognomy."*

The portrait here noticed, purports to have been painted by Mr. G. Stuart, but we have every reason to believe it must be a spurious copy, by another hand. Two original heads of

Washington only have been painted by this artist. The first was done for lord Lansdown, and is now in the possession of Samuel Williams, esq. of London, who purchased it for five hundred and fifteen guineas, and the other for Mr. Stuart himself, and is now in his own possession. About five full length copies only by Stuart's own hand have been given to the world. Most of these have been done for individual states, (none, however, for the state of New-York) one for an individual gentleman, and one for the town of Boston. Unless some state, therefore, has authorized this portrait of Washington to be removed from their custody to the American Academy in New-York, it is fair to presume, the picture under consideration was painted by some other hand. We proceed upon the assumption that the portrait in the academy is a full length. We make this statement in justice to Mr. Stuart, so that no criticisms, however well founded, upon the works of others, may be erroneously applied to him.

The copy done for an individual gentleman, is the one now in possession of Peter Jay Monroe, esquire, who, we understand, purchased it in England. It was painted for a London Banker by order of the British Consul General. The Banker wished only a half length; but by mistake it was made a full length.

Mr. Monroe's picture is an exact copy from the marquis of Lansdown's and does not give "another view of the face," nor represent Washington "in another attitude." If the writer in the magazine is certain of this difference of position both of Washington's figure and face, in the two pictures, it is a circumstance which will prove, beyond controversy, that the painting in the Academy is spurious. The idea is confirmed by the following remark, that Mr. Monroe's "is a better picture and much more like the person and face of Washington." The observation is true, perhaps, touching the painting in the Academy, but it is incorrect when applied to lord Lansdown's. For it can scarcely be necessary to mention to the writer in the magazine, that no copy by the same hand, can ever be equal in spirit, life, or effect, to the original painting.

#### MOUNT BLANC.

Col. Beaufoy, says the London Monthly Magazine for April 1817, has lately published in the Annals of Philosophy, an interesting account of a journey which he made to the summit of Mount Blanc, in the month of August, 1807.

"Our dinner being finished, we fixed our cramp-irons to our shoes, and began to cross the glacier; but we had not proceeded far, when we discovered that the frozen snow which lay in the ridges between the waves of ice, often concealed with a covering of uncertain strength, the fathomless chasms which traverse this solid sea; yet the danger was soon in a great degree removed, by the expedient of tying ourselves together with our long rope, which being fastened at proper distances to our waists, secured from the principal hazard such as might fall within the opening of the gulf. Trusting to the same precaution, we also crossed upon our ladder, without apprehension, such of the chasms as were exposed to view; and sometimes stopping in the middle of the ladder, looked down in safety upon an abyss which baffled the reach of vision, and from which the sound of the masses of ice, that we repeatedly let fall, in no instance ascended to the ear. In

some places we were obliged to cut footsteps with our hatchets; yet on the whole, the difficulties were far from great, for in two hours and a half we had passed the glacier. We now with more ease and much more expedition, pursued our way, having only snow to cross; and in two hours arrived at a hut, which had been erected in the year 1736, by the order and at the expense of M. De Saussure."

At this hut the travellers slept, and the following is a very striking account of the night scene which was observed at this very elevated station: "At two o'clock I threw aside my blankets, and went out of the hut to observe the appearance of the heavens. The stars shone with a lustre that far exceed the brightness which they exhibit when seen from the usual level; and had so little tremor in their light, as to leave no doubt on my mind, that if viewed from the summit of the mountain, they would have appeared as fixed points.—How improved in those altitudes would be the aids which the telescope gives to vision! indeed the clearness of the air was such, as led me to think that Jupiter's satellites might be distinguished by the naked eye; and had he not been in the neighborhood of the moon, I might possibly have succeeded. He continued distinctly visible for several hours after the sun was risen, and did not wholly disappear until almost eight."

With the morning dawn the company proceeded on their expedition; and the following passage will convey a very distinct idea of the dangers and horrors to which this journey is exposed. Our route was across the snow; but the chasms which the ice beneath had formed, though less numerous than those we had passed on the preceding day, embarrassed our ascent. One in particular had opened so much in the few days that intervened between M. De Saussure's expedition and our own, as for the time to bar the hope of any farther progress; but at length, having wandered with much anxiety along its bank, I found a place which I hoped the ladder was sufficiently long to cross. The ladder was accordingly laid down, and was seen to rest upon the opposite edge, but its bearing did not exceed an inch on either side. We now considered, that should we pass the chasm, and should its opening, which had enlarged so much in the course of a few preceding days, increase in the least degree before the time of our descent, no chance of return remained.—We also considered, that if the clouds, which so often enveloped the hill, should rise, the hope of finding, amidst the thick fog, our way back to this only place in which the gulf, even in its present state was passable, was little less than desperate. Yet, after a moment's pause the guides consented to go with me, and we crossed the chasm. We had not proceeded far, when the thirst, which, since our arrival in the upper regions of the air, had been always troublesome, became almost intolerable. No sooner had I drank than the thirst returned, and in a few minutes my throat became perfectly dry. Again I had recourse to the water, and again my throat was parched. The air itself was thirsty; its extreme dryness had robbed my body of its moisture."

After surmounting a succession of similar dangers, and continuing to experience the same disheartening sensations, the company at length arrived at about 150 fathoms below the body of the summit. Their feelings at this moment are well depicted in the following passage. "The peril-

cious effects of the thinness of the air were now evident on us all; a desire almost irresistible of sleep came on. My spirits had left me: sometimes, indifferent as to the event, I wished to lie down; at others I blamed myself for the expedition; and though just at the summit, had thoughts of turning back without accomplishing my purpose. Of my guides, many were in a worse situation; for exhausted by excessive vomiting, they seemed to have lost all strength both of mind and body. But shame came at length to our relief.—I drank the last pint of water that was left, and found myself amazingly refreshed, my lungs with difficulty performed their office, and my heart was affected with a violent palpitation. At last, however, hit with a sort of apathy which scarcely admitted the sense of joy, we reached the summit of the mountain; when six of my guides, and with them my servant, threw themselves on their faces, and were immediately asleep.

The following is an account of the effect produced upon the mind of the spectator by the view from the vast height to which the travellers had attained. "When the spectator begins to look around him from this elevated height, a confused impression of immensity is the first effects produced upon his mind; but the blue colour, deep almost to blackness, of the canopy above him, soon arrests his attention. He next surveys the mountains, many of which, from the clearness of the air, are to his eye within a stone's throw from him; and even those of Lombardy seem to approach his neighborhood: while, on the other side, the vale of Chamouni, glittering with the sun beams, is to the view directly below his feet, and affects his head with giddiness; on the other hand, all objects of which the distance is great and the level low, are hid from his eye by the blue vapour which intervenes, and through which I could not discern the lake of Geneva, though at the height of 15,700 English feet, which, according to M. Saussure, was the level on which I stood; even the Mediterranean sea must have been within the line of vision. The air was still, and the day so remarkably fine, that I could not discover in any part of the heavens the appearance of a single cloud."

## JUDICIAL.

Munson Williams, et al.

vs.

The Spanish *scholar Sophia*.

DECREE.

This is a case which has presented itself to the court under such circumstances as cannot fail to be a subject of regret and mortification, but I feel myself constrained, as long as I have the honor of administering the laws of this government, to pay a due regard to the maritime relations which should subsist between us, as an infant and growing republic, and every other nation bearing the character of neutrality—I feel the importance and imperative necessity of regarding the sanctions of public law, the obligations of treaties, the rights of other sovereign powers, and the general laws of nations, as established either by universal custom or positive compact. Influenced, as I hope I ever shall be, by principles like these, I cannot but express a painful regret that an open and avowed enemy should be likely to go unpunished, though within the power and coercion of this government.

The case of the *Sophia*, as presented to the court in evidence, is this; that on the 4th of July,



1817, she sailed from this port to the port of Matanzas, in the Island of Cuba, with sundry goods, wares and merchandise laden on board, consisting of dry goods, cutlery, &c. particularly specified in the bill of lading, consigned to John A. Grace, by William Gaston, of Savannah, in the state of Georgia; of sundry articles of wearing apparel and furniture, belonging to Wm. Lawrence, a citizen of this government, to whom the said vessel also belonged, as conceded in the evidence both of capt. Miguel Mabrio, the commander, and Nicholas Davis, the mate. It appeared by the captain's protest, and the logbook kept by the mate, which I have carefully examined, that the said vessel encountered very bad weather for many days, and was, finally, compelled to return to this place, from whence she sailed again on the 14th of the same month; and that contrary winds, stress of weather, want of provisions, and the number of passengers, (twenty-six in number) compelled her to make the first port at which she could arrive; that on the 4th of July, 1817, she anchored off the south-east end or point of Cumberland Island, and about 3 o'clock P. M. she was taken possession of by an armed force from Amelia Island, and brought to Fernandina. There has been a claim interposed by Archibald Clark, the collector of the U. States at St. Mary's, stating that the said vessel was captured in neutral waters, to wit, within the maritime jurisdiction of the U. States. To support this claim there has been a variety of conflicting testimony on both sides, on the part of the captors, capt. Warfield, Nathaniel K. Brown, lieut. of marines, Samuel Blanchard, sailing master, and Ashea Perkins, paymaster, of the private armed vessel Republican, testified as to their belief that the schooner Sophia was captured in Spanish waters; and, on the other hand, capt. Mabrio and Mr. Davis, the mate, swore positively that she was not more than two or three hundred yards at farthest from Cumberland Island, and within American waters, for that the river at the place where the vessel was moored is at least three quarters of a mile wide. This evidence I considered as interested on both sides, and would not have been admitted by me to go before a jury if I were sitting in a court of common law; but it is the province of a judge to know the character and effect of evidence, and such as is illegal can have no influence on his mind. But the evidence of Charles Hopner, who has been a branch pilot from St. Mary's for many years, and who is a man of great experience in his profession, is of a nature entirely different; he is totally disinterested, and indifferent as to the result of the cause, and swears most explicitly, that at the time he boarded the Sophia, at the request of captain Williams, she was at anchor in American waters, as near under the south-east point of Cumberland Island as she could conveniently lie—that she was in about four fathoms of water—that he is perfectly acquainted with the channel which lies about the middle of the river, and is about seven fathoms deep—that the vessel was greatly to the northward and eastward of that, and was clearly and decidedly anchored within the American marine jurisdiction. According to the existing treaty between the U. States and Spain, all vessels of either nation are protected in the free navigation of the said river, and cannot be molested in transitu, and upon either side of the channel, &c. Shore in which a vessel may anchor, decides the character of her des-

tinuation; such being the evidence, the facts and circumstances of this case, and such appearing in the judgment of the court to be the law upon the subject, the court feels itself constrained to decide that the schooner Sophia and her cargo, is shielded and protected by the neutrality, good understanding and political friendship which so happily subsist between this government and the United States. I do, therefore, adjudicate and decree, that the said schooner Sophia, her furniture, tackle and apparel, be restored; and, upon motion of the attorney general, I do certify, not only probable, but ample and sufficient cause of capture and detention; and I do, therefore, decree, that the captain of the schooner pay the full costs of this prosecution. I cannot dismiss the subject without stating that the general and commander in chief has evinced the greatest moderation, humanity and compassion towards the captain, officers and crew of the Sophia, by not making them prisoners of war, as he had the power to do, and as strict justice required, but has permitted them to go at large; and, in return for so much kindness, there has been nothing evinced but a continued spirit of discontent, complaint and hostility. There are few countries in the world where such a spirit would have been tolerated, not scarcely in the mildest, and certainly not in that country in which the captain and crew reside. Such conduct on the part of this government (however it may be disregarded by the ungrateful) cannot fail to ensure us the approbation and confidence of all those whose good opinion we are solicitous to obtain. JOHN D. HEATH, Judge of the Court of Admiralty.

#### FOREIGN SUMMARY.

##### RUSSIA.

*Voyage of Discovery.*—A new ship called the Kamschatka is fitting out in Russia for a voyage of discovery. She is commanded by Golowin, formerly a prisoner in Japan.

*A free port.*—The emperor of Russia has declared Odessa on the Black Sea, a free port for thirty years: all foreign articles (except spirituous liquors) may be imported free of duty, declaration, and custom-house visit. The quarantine laws to continue in force. Such articles as cannot lawfully be exported from other parts of Russia, cannot be exported from Odessa.

*Private Munificence.*—Count Romanzoff, a Russian nobleman, has at his own expense built four churches on his estates, for different sects: has sent a vessel round the world on a voyage of discovery; and is now about to establish Lancasterian schools.

##### GERMANY.

The Diet of Germany have resolved to memorialize the different courts of Europe on the subject of Tunisian Corsairs appearing upon the coast. They compliment the British for their first interference.

The Diet of Frankfort have unanimously adopted a resolution, having for its object to adjust by mediation all future disputes between the states, members of the German confederation; in the first instance by the Diet itself, and if that body is unsuccessful, then to constitute an Austregal tribunal with judicial powers for the purpose of finally deciding the points in difference.

##### FLANDERS.

*Ostend, June 24.*—The excesses committed by the populace of Brussels on the 18th were followed,

on the next day, by similar disturbances at Ghent, and have extended to the southern division of the province, particularly Courtray, where the military were resisted, and some soldiers killed.

At Bruges the populace, taking advantage of the absence of part of the troops yesterday, proceeded to acts of violence, the pillage of houses, magazines of corn, and the baker's shops, particularly those suspected of buying up the corn, and, notwithstanding every exertion on the part of the public authorities, these outrages were not put a stop to till five in the afternoon. The garrison was kept on foot during the night, and have been reinforced by six companies from this place in course of to-day.

The immediate cause of this commotion is said to have been the seizing of a hungry child whilst carrying off a loaf from a baker's. A crowd immediately collected and rescued the child, and then spread over the town with cries of "bread"—"non-exportation of grain"—"or no king."—They had no arms, but used stones, and it is not yet known here whether any person was seriously hurt, or any of the ringleaders taken.

## AUSTRIA.

**Iron.**—The emperor of Austria issued a decree under date of the 10th May, prohibiting the introduction of raw foreign iron and steel into his dominions and all articles manufactured of that material.

## ENGLAND.

The first vote the duke of Wellington gave in the British house of lords was against the Catholic question.

The prohibition of the exportation of cotton yarn, is now a favorite object with many in England, to encourage the weaving in that country. The subject is before parliament.

The makers of wrought nails in England have petitioned parliament against the use of machinery.

The Prince Regent is said to have purchased the castle of count Wallenden, in Hanover, with its grand collection of statues and paintings for 1,000,000 dollars.

**Female rival.**—A challenge has been given in England by Miss W. to her niece Miss N. and rejected, and the former arrested, and committed to prison because she refused to give bail. She is represented as a fine woman, about 26 years of age. A gentleman of rank had offered her marriage but suddenly changed his mind and addressed Miss N.

**Crim. Con.**—In England, 12,000 dollars have been recovered by Lt. Kent, of the army, of Col. Sorrell, for crim. con.

**Criminal Offenders.**—By the statement of Criminal offenders in England and Wales, lately published, it appears that 47,522 persons have been committed to jail for criminal offences during the last 7 years, of whom 4,126 received sentence of death, (536 of whom were executed)—267 transported for life—533 for 14 years—4,548 for 7 years—imprisoned for 5 years, 4—ditto 4 years, 2—ditto 3 years, 54—ditto 2 years and above one year, 1,374—one year and above six months, 3,782—six months and under, 13,518—whipped and fined, 1,154.

## SCOTLAND.

The chamber of commerce of Glasgow have agreed to petition parliament to repeal the laws regulating the interest on money.

## FRANCE.

**Paris, June 2.**—The negotiation with the court of Rome, respecting the affairs of the Church of France is said to be definitively concluded.

**Calais, June 21.**—The Russian squadron which has arrived at Calais, is composed of eight vessels of 74 guns, one frigate of 44 guns, and one brig of 18 guns. This squadron is commanded by vice admiral Crown, and rear admirals Mourawieff and Ogilvy. Its destination is to embark the 6th part of the Russian contingent, and to convey them to Russia. The squadron sailed from Cronstadt to Calais in 24 days. A violent storm forced it to cast anchor twice at Elsinour. The rumors which have been circulated of French prisoners remaining still in Russia, are very false. Passengers disembarked here, assure us, that after the most accurate inquiries by the police minister of the empire, there did not remain a Frenchman in Russia, except such as are naturalized, and of whom the number is considerable. Several personages of distinction have taken advantage of this opportunity, to come to France by sea; the count de Maistre, the Sardinian ambassador in Russia; the general in chief Fense; the countess of Razumowski; the wife and family of general baron de Jomini; M. Bourgeois, French consul at St. Petersburg, &c. &c.

## SPAIN.

A Steam-Boat has been launched at Seville Spain. The king has decreed that all new invented instruments may be imported free of duty. Lieutenant general Equia is appointed minister of war, vice the marquis Campo Sagrado.

An amnesty in favor of all proscribed Spaniards, is expected in Spain.

## PORTUGAL.

**Conspirators.**—The trials for high treason of the Portuguese conspirators, have commenced at Lisbon.

A London paper of the 5th of July says, it appears that the designs of the Portuguese conspirators were skillfully planned. Four committees had been formed in Lisbon. The principal committee alone was in possession of the whole machinery of the plot; the others co-operated only with the principal committee, and the president of the one immediately above and below their own in numerical order. Nothing less was aimed at than the entire exclusion of the Braganza family.—Marshal Beresford and the other English officers were then to have been secured, and the Portuguese army invited to join the standard of insurrection. A provisional government was then to have been formed, and ultimately a republican form of government established.

## SOUTH AMERICA.

**Royal Punishment.**—The captain of the schooner Attractive, which arrived at Boston on the 21st instant, direct from Lagaira, brings information, that a few days previous to his departure, a vessel arrived at that place from Cumana, under the Danish flag, with several prisoners of both sexes; among whom was a beautiful young girl, who was sentenced to have BOTH HER HANDS CUT OFF, for having been caught in the act of making a patriot flag!!

**Spanish Cruelty.**—Lagaira, July 21.—Gen. Morillo landed at the Island of Margareta on the 14th inst. A column of his (the Royalist) troops marched immediately to attack Porlamar, which they took possession of after a desperate resistance. Three hundred of the Insurgent band

were killed, and many wounded and made prisoners. The remainder of the band fled to the mountains. It is believed that the whole Island will remain altogether cleared of insurgents in the course of this month. The Island is now surrounded with 20 Spanish ships of war. Several small ships laden with Insurgent families who endeavored to escape, were already taken.

All these evils are caused here by foreigners, who have nothing else in view but to plunder and desolate this beautiful country; and therefore it is a measure adopted by Gen. Morillo, immediately to put to the sword all of them that are taken bearing arms. Many of this description have already met with this condign fate.

## FLORIDA.

**Pensacola.**—Some sharp sparring has passed between General Gaines and the pusillanimous governor of Pensacola; the latter had refused permission for provisions to be taken to Ford Crawford, in American boats from New-Orleans up the Escambia, without paying a duty to the Spanish government. This subject, will no doubt, be enquired into by the United States government.

## DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

## MASSACHUSETTS.

**An Extraordinary Increase.**—It was ascertained that one seed of rye produced, the present season, in the town of Stockbridge, no less than one thousand two hundred and eighty-nine plump sound kernels.

**British Consul.**—George Manners, esquire, has been appointed, by the prince regent, consul for the state of Massachusetts.

**Java Frigate.**—We are authorised to state, says the Boston Centinel of the 23d instant, that the article copied from a late Philadelphia paper respecting the Java frigate, is erroneous. A survey of that frigate has lately been made, and she only requires to be repaired to be rendered fit for service. She is now at the navy yard, in Charlestown.

**Mr. Russell,** our minister to Sweden, with his family, sailed from Boston on Thursday last, in the ship Persia, for Amsterdam. Mr. Edward Wier, American consul at Hamburg, is also a passenger in the Persia.

## NEW-YORK.

**Fire at Newburg.**—On the 21st inst. a fire broke out in the town of Newburg which, it is suspected, was occasioned by the hand of an incendiary. In its progress it destroyed nine stores and three dwelling houses, together with many goods.

**A Fair Thief.**—The Albany Argus of the 22d inst. says, a person was brought before the police yesterday, on a charge of larceny, whose case has excited considerable interest. The prisoner has been for some time a hack driver between this city and Lansingburgh. A brother hack-man, lodging in the room with the prisoner, missed a small sum of money, and, as no one else slept in the room, he charged the theft upon his room mate, and arraigned the supposed culprit before the police. On examining the prisoner for the stolen money, the reader may conceive the astonishment of the court, when they discovered the prisoner to be a female, in the habilament of a man! From a letter found upon her, addressed to her mother in Vermont, it appears that she has travelled twelve hundred miles in this disguise, and proposed soon to return to the

paternal roof with the fruits of her industry. Her name is Eliza Bennet; and, we lament to add, that the proofs were so strong against her as to justify her commitment for trial.

## PENNSYLVANIA.

**Mr. John Sergeant,** who went to England last winter, as agent to procure specie for the Bank of the United States, arrived at Philadelphia, on the 21st instant.

## VIRGINIA.

**Law.**—A case of some interest has been started under a law of Virginia, and the constitution of the United States. An act of Assembly forbids the free people of color from other states settling in this state, and points out the method by which an intruder may be moved. Some persons of this description, who had settled in Mathews, were about to be removed under the provisions of this statute; when, on advice of an attorney at law, a petition was laid before a circuit Court Judge, praying for a writ of habeas corpus, upon this ground—that the petitioner was a citizen of the state of Rhode-Island, had been enrolled in her militia, &c. &c.—and that by the 2d section 4th C. U. S. "The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states: which it was contended, was a sufficient guarantee of the right of the citizens of one state to move into and settle in another; of course, that the statute of Virginia, was unconstitutional.—The habeas corpus awarded, returnable to the next circuit court of Mathews county; when, of course this question will be discussed. The provision in the C. U. S. ought to be interpreted: for several state laws have been impeached, (lately one from the state of Louisiana,) as contravening this very provision.

## NORTH-CAROLINA.

**Commerce.**—The following statement compiled from official accounts now in the possession of a mercantile house in Payetteville. As the establishment of a branch of the United States Bank in this state, is yet under consideration, it is presumed these statements may be of value, as shewing at one view the relative commercial importance of the different towns in this state:

Value of goods, wares and merchandise, of the growth, produce and manufacture, of the United States, exported to foreign ports, from the state of North Carolina, during the year ending on the 30th September, 1816, viz.

Wilmington,	\$ 1,061,112
Newbern,	84,281
Washington,	33,933
Edenton,	71,484
Camden,	12,982
Plymouth,	36,314
Ocracocke,	28,163

Total, 1,328,271

The above exported principally to Great-Britain, British, French, and Spanish West-Indies.

Value of domestic produce shipped coastwise from the town of Wilmington, during the year ending on 30th September, 1816, as taken from the manifests delivered at the custom-house by the masters of vessels

To which add foreign exports, 1,061,112

Total Exports of Wilmington, 1,328,271



Statement of domestic produce shipped from Fayetteville, during the same period viz.

2337 hogsheds of Tobacco,	\$ 400,550
8292 bales of cotton,	621,900
11813 bushels of wheat,	17,719
10341 bushels of corn,	10,341
5164 casks flax seed,	77,460
29761 gallons spirits,	23,808
13962 barrels flour,	129,620
tallow, wax, bacon, fur, lard, feathers, &c.	50,000

Total. 1,331,398

In estimating the value, reference was had to the valuation at the custom-house, and to the New-York prices current of the proper date.—The statement is rather under than over rated. M

"Masters of vessels licensed for the coasting trade bound from one district to another district, in the same, or an adjoining state, having on board domestic produce only, or foreign goods, not exceeding a certain (small) amount, are not required by law to deliver any manifest of their cargoes at the port from whence they depart."

Thus a considerable amount of goods and produce shipped to other parts of this state, and to the adjoining states, is not included in this estimate.—*Car. Observer.*

#### GEORGIA.

**Sale of Alabama Lands.**—The Georgia Journal of the 12th gives the following: public lands now selling here have brought, so far, good prices. prime river low grounds average from forty to fifty dollars. A fraction of one hundred and seventy acres, part of the Big Bend of the Alabama, sold as high as seventy dollars the acre. Other parcels adjoining were bid off above forty and fifty dollars. A large fraction, containing several hundred acres of high land, on the Ten Mile Bluff, which lies opposite the Big Bend, and is said to be an excellent site for a town, sold for fifty dollars an acre. In that township, (No. 16 in range 17) purchasers it is believed were found for every section. Those best acquainted with the choice Alabama low grounds, assert, that its fertility is inexhaustible, and that it will produce for almost an indefinite term of years, in constant cultivation, 100 bushels of corn to the acre! This assertion is repeated by so many respectable persons who know the land, that great as the product may appear, we cannot suppose there is any exaggeration.

**Indian Lands.**—The same paper of the 5th inst. says the Indians have agreed to cede to the United States for the use of Georgia (if the compensation offered be acceptable,) the tract of land lying between the Ocmulgee river and the line run under Jackson's treaty, and east of a creek emptying into the said river, called by the Indians *Al-ga-ac-ah-ik-ee*, beginning at the mouth of said creek and running up the same by the main southern branch to the head thereof, and thence by a line due south to the line of Jackson's treaty. This creek it is understood falls into the Ocmulgee between Hartford and Blackshear's road, leading to Trader's Hill on St. Mary's. The tract of country that will be acquired by this cession is about 60 miles in length and from 12 to 15 wide, bordering on the Ocmulgee and Atamaha rivers.

**The Fever.**—We learn by the Savannah Republican, that from the 1st to the 15 inst. seventeen deaths happened in Savannah, fourteen of which was occasioned by fever, without distinguishing

the kind; of whom six were residents and eleven non-residents.

#### OHIO.

**Law Intelligence.**—Magistrates may commit for offences against the laws of the United States.

John P. Houston, who was apprehended at Cincinnati and committed to prison on the 4th inst. says the Gazette of the 11th, was brought before the court of Common Pleas of this county now in session, by writ of habeas corpus to procure his discharge.

Houston was committed by a magistrate of this county on a charge of having robbed the mail of the United States, while employed as a clerk in the post office at New Alexandria in the state of Pennsylvania. The counsel for the prisoner, insisted that he was entitled to his discharge on two grounds: first, because the warrant of the commitment was defective; secondly because the crime charged not being an offence against the laws of this state, a justice of the peace had no authority to commit.

The court were of opinion, that the law of Congress which expressly authorises justices of the peace of the several states to commit for offences against the laws of the United States was constitutional: but that the court of Common Pleas had no jurisdiction over such offences, and therefore no right to inquire into the legality of the commitment. The prisoner was therefore remanded.

We understand he will leave his present residence this day, with a suitable escort, to take his trial before the federal court of Pennsylvania.

**Mammoth Hailstone.**—On Sunday afternoon the 6th ult. a violent hail-storm was experienced at Cadiz, Ohio. The hail in general appeared to be about two inches in circumference, although several measured nine and ten inches. They came in torrents, making the ground smoke, cutting to pieces the tender corn, threshing the grain in the fields, and beating the fruit from the trees. John Busby, Esq. makes solemn affidavit before three justices of the peace, who publicly attest to his good character, that before the hail ceased, there fell before his eyes, not exceeding thirty feet from him, a mass of congealed matter, which this deponent thinks would have undoubtedly weighed between thirty and forty pounds. This deponent further says, that the noise occasioned by its fall, notwithstanding it was in the woods, and on soft ground, might have been easily heard fifty rods, though it fell when storming, and while the wind blew very high and hard. And this deponent further declares, that the said congealed mass of matter, on striking the ground, burst into a number of pieces, resembling hail-stones, of different shapes and sizes, one of which was nearly the size of his two fists, when closed."

#### TENNESSEE.

**Road to New-Orleans.**—We understand that three companies of United States troops are employed in opening a road laid off from Maury county line to Madisonville, opposite to New-Orleans, which road, it is said, will save about one fourth of the distance travelled in the old road from Nashville to New-Orleans: and it passes over much better ground. It crosses the Tennessee river at the mouth of Cypress Creek, a little below the foot of the Muscle Shoals. This road passing through a considerable part of the United States land, will increase the value of it very much.

## MICHIGAN TERRITORY

*Detroit July 25*—The troops at this post (about 400) are remarkably healthy and well clothed.

The season has been very fine in these parts. Grain looks well, and the apple, peach and pear trees are laden with fruit.

Since last May, more than seventeen hundred head of cattle have been driven to this place from Ohio. The cattle in this Territory were almost wholly destroyed during the late war, but they are now rapidly increasing, and it will not be long before there will be a surplus.

About the 20th ult. a drove of 200 cattle belonging to the Contractor, arrived at Green Bay (at the mouth of Fox river, on lake Michigan,) from Ohio, a distance of 5 or 600 miles of Wilderness.

## EDITOR'S CABINET.

*Amelia Island.*—The contradictory accounts from M'Gregor and his party veil every thing from that quarter in uncertainty. Recent newspaper accounts inform us that a Spanish officer from St. Augustine had found his way to M'Gregor's camp, ascertained the number of his men, and extent of his resources, and having accomplished that object, had made safe his retreat to St. Johns, where he raised a force of two or three hundred men, for the purpose of dislodging the Patriots—that M'Gregor having discovered this (but we are not informed how) had assembled his men, candidly laid before them his hopes of victory &c. and left it to their option to follow his fortunes or depart. Most of his little band consequently left him, and he finding his situation a hazardous one, had removed his own and officers baggage on board of a brig, ready to govern himself according to circumstances. A subsequent account states that but few of his men had deserted him, and that their loss was more than made up by recruits—That a false alarm had been purposely given, and that 65 privates were mustered in the fort, and about 50 in a block house—That the Buenos Ayrian armed brig *Patriota* of 16 guns, com. Taylor, had arrived at Amelia, which increased his whole force to 300 men—that the brig *Morgiana* was hourly expected from New-York with 400 men more, which would enable M'Gregor to push his enterprize against St. Augustine—That the troops were in good spirits and sanguine of success. We notice these as embracing the substance of all.—Various others are floating through the papers which do not require notice.

The Charleston City Gazette states, that the schr. *Satellite*, capt. Hillard, arrived there on the 21st inst. in 6 days from Havanna. The captain and passengers report, that the fever which had raged there for some time past had subsided.—That a few days before they sailed, the brig *Cannon*, of New-York, arrived there from Cadiz, bringing advices, that the Spanish fleet of Merchant-

men, which sailed from Havannah for Cadiz, about two months ago, had been captured by a squadron of Independent privateers, after having parted from their convoy.

*The Serpent.*—Capt. Doyle arrived at New-York on the 25th inst. in 3 days from Cape Ann, and states, that the day before he left there, a number of boats had been in pursuit of the *Serpent*, who had resisted the attack made upon him in such a spirited manner as to make his assailants retreat, who succeeded with difficulty in reaching the shore. Two thousand dollars had been offered for his skin.

*A great Man.*—A certain editor of a weekly paper in a neighboring city, informs the public, that it was his opinion, the President of the U. States wished to pursue unmolested the objects of his tour, and disapproving as he [the editor] did of so much parade and show as had been exhibited, and valuing the public service more than his own, or the president's personal gratification, says, "I carefully kept myself from every place where it might be expected to meet him during his stay in Baltimore." This forcibly reminds us of the fly upon the bullocks horn, who, fearing his weight would be burdensome to that sturdy animal, kindly offered to take himself off.

*Court Martial.*—The naval court martial, which was convened in this city, for the trial of lieutenant colonel WHARTON, of the marine corps, on charges preferred against him by major HANCOCK of that corps, the nature of which we have not learned, has declared that it has not the proper jurisdiction; in consequence of which, a court has been detailed by the war department, by application from the navy department, and are summoned to meet in this city on the 10th proximo. The following is the official order:—

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
August 27, 1817.

## GENERAL ORDER.

A general court martial will assemble at Davis's hotel, in the city of Washington, on Wednesday the 10th of September next, for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before it. The court will be composed as follows; viz:

Col. William King, 4th Inf. President.

## MEMBERS.

Col. G. E. Mitchell, Corps Art.

Lieut. Col. J. V. Ball, 1st Inf.

Lieut. Col. W. Lawrence, 8th Inf.

Lieut. Col. W. K. Armistead, Engineers.

Lieut. Col. G. Armistead, Corps Art.

Lieut. Col. R. Jones, Corps Art.

## SUPERNUMERARIES.

Major J. W. Davis, Staff.

Major W. McDonald, Staff.

A judge advocate will be appointed, and further instructions will be given through the President of the court, in after orders.

By order,

D. PARKER.  
Adj. and Insp. Gen.